Separation of Finance and Vigilance in the Deptt. of Electronics

3961. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two functions of finance and vigilance, which are not related to each other, are vested in one single officer in the Department of Electronics;

(b) whether this arrangement is against the canons of propriety, since the financial adviser who gives concurrence to financial proposals like purchases, may not be able to function effectively as vigilance officer in such matters; and

(c) whether Government propose to assign these two functions to two independent officers, in the interest of fighting corruption in Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) It is true that the functions of finance and vigilance are presently vested in one single officer in the Department of Electronics. It is not, however, correct to state that these functions are not related to each other.

(b) and (c) Due to administrative exigencies finance and vigilance have been entrusted with the same officer. It is ensured that the canons of propriety are strictly observed.

The Chief Vigilance Officer is appointed in the Department of Electronics in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission. The Department sends a panel of names to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. The CVO is appointed on the basis of recommendation by the Central Vigilance Commission.

Concurrence of Deptt. of Electronics for purchasing Modi Zerox Machines

3962. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Modi Zerox Machines, worth about Rs. 40 lakhs, were concurred in by the Finance Adviser, Department of Electronics for purchase in some departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether the said machines were purchased in the month of March, 1987, to avoid lapse/surrender of funds;

(c) whether such machines were really required and other alternatives were not available;

(d) what is the utilisation percentage of the machines, since their installation;

(e) whether the purchase was made in contravention of the rules regarding purchase to be made by Government Departments;

(f) whether the purchase was made also in contravention of Government instructions not to incur wasteful expenditure and to economise on Government spending; and

(g) whether administrative approval of competent authorities was obtained in advance for the purchase of the machines in all the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Nine (9) nos. of Modi machines at a cost of Rs. 8.87 lakhs for the Department of Electronics and four (4) nos. machines at a cost of about Rs. 3.94 lakhs for the Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forests were concurred in by the Financial Adviser of the Department of Electronics.

(b) Purchase order for 8 machines was placed in the month of March 87 and purchase order for one machine was placed